

Sisters' S. C. E.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

After a few days of pleasant weather which made us think of Dryden's words,

"And buds that yet the blasts of winter fear,
Stands at the door of life, and ask to clothe the year,"

we are again in the midst of winter, and this morning I look out upon one of the wintriest scenes I have beheld since summer fled, and gave place to the melancholy days of autumn. The air is thick with drifting snow, the fence corners piled high, and the moan of the winds makes us think of "the wail of shivering ghosts out in the black night of despair and damnation." Last night, for the first and only time during our winter's work, we were kept from church services by storm. Just fifteen weeks ago to-day, we left our home in Maryland, and since then what varied experiences have been ours—drives through deep mud, blinding snow, chilling rains, and intense cold, changes from warm rooms to cold, and cold rooms to warm, weariness, disappointments and discouragements sometimes,—and yet, so much of sunshine, so much of gladness and encouragement, not a single railroad accident, only one service lost from wintry storm, not one lost from sickness, so much of loving kindness and sympathy, so much of loving appreciation, so much encouragement, so much for which to say, "Praise the Lord." "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

At my last writing I was at Bryan, O. The church numbers only about twenty members, yet there they had one of the most active Aid Societies in the brotherhood, and without one dissenting voice they accepted the S. S. C. E. Constitution. Their loving interest in Christ's cause reaches beyond the limits of Bryan church. O, for more such missionary spirit among our people! Rather let me say, O, for more of the Holy Spirit among our people! for if we have the Holy Spirit, shall we not be full of the missionary spirit?

From Bryan, I went to Brighton, Ind., and there found the S. S. C. E. prosperous and active. They have done good service for the church, and are now working toward earning money to paper their chapel. While there I had the privilege of attending G. B. services one morning and hearing Brother Hodgins of Huntington, Ind., preach from the text, "Oh that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments, for then hadst thy peace been as a

river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." You will know how much I enjoyed it when I tell you that it was active K. C. Society,—junior and senior branches, but are not yet ready to fall in line with the S. S. C. E.

My next visit was to Dunlaps, and there they have an active S. S. C. E., of faithful workers. Their society is young but full of enthusiasm. This is one of the societies we organized last summer, and I assure you, it was not a little pleasure to visit them, and find them so active and earnest.

On Wednesday morning I left them, and made my next stop at my Indiana home, brother Augustine's. I remained there over Sunday, not working, but resting,—taking the first rest from service in fourteen weeks.

The S. S. C. E. at Fairview is one of the largest in the brotherhood, but they are organized apart from the Aid Society, and do not put forth much effort financially. They take up free will offerings at each meeting. They hold monthly meetings, using the programs published in the EVANGELIST. I had the pleasure of attending one of their services on Sunday night. This society never fails to send its full quota to the general fund. Under the able work of Brother Furry, the church has had a large growth in the last year, and all are very appreciative of the pastor's faithful and efficient service.

On the last day of March I entered upon active work again, visiting the New Troy church of Michigan as my first point. There, although in mid-week, we had well filled houses, and it was a pleasure to preach again to these people whom we had served as pastor in the past. Their society is still at work, though because of surrounding circumstances it cannot do as efficient work as some others.

From Troy I came to Bethel, but because of the storm have not met the society as yet. From Brother Clark I learn that the society here has done a good work, but has suffered the loss of a number of its members who have recently moved away.

At a number of places we have visited, we have learned that they will contribute again to the sales table we shall have at Conference. Do not waste your leisure moments, dear sisters, but fashion some article that shall add something to our S. S. C. E. treasury. Do not forget our pledge at last Conference to do all in our power to meet the expenses of the Theological chair. You may not have been there dear sister, but your representative pledged for you. We did well last year,—

let us do *better* this year. If you can not furnish some article for sale, will you not only the second sermon I had heard in five months time. You who think the preacher's life is such a pleasant one, just think how hungry we become to hear another voice in the pulpit besides our own.

From Brighton, I went to Elkhart, and there, though they have long had an Aid Society, only three voted to accept the S. S. C. E. Constitution. They have an send a free will offering in cash? I mean *you*, dear Reader,—*you*, not some one else. As a Christian Endeavor in an address said, "The substance of others collected for missions will not suffice for what of *yours* God wants for His work." Give as God has prospered you. Give, that by your giving of time, effort, labor and money, your own spiritual life may be brightened and enlarged. God help us to be Christian Endeavorers indeed.

LAURA E. N. GROSSNICKLE.

April 3, '96.

HER FAULT.

The following advice given to a young married woman who was visited by another older and more experienced one, may be helpful to some of our readers:

When the visitor arose to go the hostess came with her to the door, and out upon the piazza, which, however, looked a little dusty in the corners.

"Oh, dear!" said the young wife, "how provoking the servants are! I told Mary to sweep the piazza thoroughly, and now look how dusty it is."

"Grace," said the older woman, looking into the disturbed young face with kindly humorous eyes, "I am an old housekeeper. Let me give you a bit of advice: Never direct people's attention to defects. Unless you do so they will rarely see them."

"Now, if I had been in your place and noticed the dirt, I should have said: 'How blue the sky is!' or, 'How beautiful the clouds are!' or, 'How bracing the air is!' Then I should have looked up at that as I spoke, and should have gotten you safely down the steps and out of sight without your seeing the dust."

WHEN we were chosen by God, we came not up sinful before him, or imperfectly holy as we are here; but God looked at the utmost end, what he would make us at last, and so he presented us to Christ, upon which presentation Christ was so taken with our beauty that never since can he absolutely delight in us, and made us perfect, having neither spot nor wrinkle, as at first we were presented to him.—
Thomas Goodwin.